

April 14, 2021

Dear School of Medicine Community:

You may have seen a recent communication by UMB President Bruce Jarrell, that the campus is now preparing for the next phase of increased density/occupancy that will begin June 1, 2021. Attached is a link to the most recent “Return To Campus Framework” that was shared by President Jarrell at the beginning of the month, and a list of information specific to the School of Medicine’s return. Within the appropriate framework, the goal is for all areas to plan an increased occupancy/density for office employees to no more than approximately 50% on any given day.

I am encouraging our SOM community to take advantage of the opportunity to safely return employees to campus under current guidelines. Beyond the June 1<sup>st</sup> date, we are also beginning to plan for the fall semester, when there will be a more significant presence of trainees on campus who will need to be supported. We hope that the campus information, plus the additional guidelines attached will assist with your preparations for this summer. I will separately be communicating with Chairs and Directors to understand their specific on-campus personnel plans for the summer and fall.

It is important to note that things will change as we move forward. Of course, we all hope that the changes will involve further increases to our density and the ability to fully return safely to on-campus status. However, we need to be mindful of the fact that new Covid-variants or other factors may cause us to return to a reduced density framework. We appreciate everyone’s understanding and flexibility as we look ahead to June 1 and beyond.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,



**E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**  
*Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore*  
*John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and*  
*Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine*



**Link to UMB Return to Campus Framework:**

<https://www.umb.edu/media/umb/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/2021-Return-to-Campus-Plan-3.31.21.pdf>

Additional SOM Return to Campus Information:

The School of Medicine will be adhering to the Campus Plan. However, in addition to that, we want everyone to be aware of the following when planning any changes for June 1:

- Until the President/Campus revises the framework and the new telework policy is approved and implemented, we are still operating under the Pandemic Telework structure.
- In developing plans to bring employees back to campus, we are asking that department/institute/center leadership create and implement a plan for your area(s) that satisfies all of the limitations and rules for 50% density of office employees.
- Social distancing will remain in place. At present, this requires approximately 6 feet of space between individuals. This includes offices, labs, lecture halls, classrooms, etc.
- Until we are made aware of changes for the fall (August 1 and beyond), we will continue to limit indoor in-person meetings to include 50% occupancy/capacity of the meeting room with 6 feet of separation.
- At this time, food/drinks remain prohibited during meetings that are conducted indoors.
- The SOM will not be providing physical barriers (ex: plexiglass partitions) in SOM spaces, although departments may provide such barriers at their own expense. Any type of barrier will need to be reviewed and approved by the SOM Dean's Office/Operations (Rob Cook) as well as UMB EHS.
- All faculty and staff that will be physically on campus for any reason are expected to follow all safety protocols including the wearing of masks or other required PPE as well as social distancing.
- The Dean's Office is working closely with SOM Student Affairs to determine what changes will be implemented in August/September for the fall semester. Please watch for updates!
- The doors to all SOM buildings will continue to remain locked and will require employees to use their badges/ONE Cards to enter via card reader access. This will be in place until the campus lifts restrictions on visitors and is no longer requiring the submission of visitor request forms/approval.
- All UMB personnel working on campus must continue to participate in the SAFE on Campus with daily symptom monitoring. Anyone who has not yet signed up for the SAFE system should follow the directions on the UMB web site:  
<https://www.umb.edu/coronavirus/safe-on-campus/>
- Elevator capacities may vary for different facilities. Please adhere to the posted elevator capacity in each building. Please keep this in mind when planning start/end times to employee schedules as there will be significant delays due to limited elevator use.

- With respect to Parking, please be aware that UMMC is now leasing the majority of spaces that were vacated/given up by UMB parkers due to the pandemic. As such, garage spaces will be limited for those who are returning. Please pay attention to communications coming out from the Office of Parking and Commuter Services and/or the Dean's Office for more details.
- UMB continues to prohibit work-related, out-of-state travel, with very limited exceptions. Work-related international travel requires permission from the UMB campus: <https://www.umaryland.edu/global/international-travel-resources/essential-international-travel-request-process/> and only essential UMB-related international travel will be approved at this time. Requests for international travel must be reviewed and approved by the Dean (or his designee). Domestic travel will continue to require permission from the SOM Dean's Office. Contact **Joni M. Prasad, PhD** in the Office of Research Affairs to request approval. [JPrasad@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:JPrasad@som.umaryland.edu)
- Any faculty or staff member requesting to have a visitor on campus, including undergraduate students working in faculty labs during the summer, must obtain prior approval. Contact Joni Prasad at [JPrasad@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:JPrasad@som.umaryland.edu) to submit requests.
- Generally, UMB is not currently allowing minors on campus, either as volunteers or paid employees. Some programs, run outside of research laboratory work, may have minors participating during summer months. Minors can participate in remote activities until restrictions have been lifted
- As per the April 9, 2021 announcement from UMB, COVID-19 testing is no longer required before coming on campus.
- At this time, UMB is not requiring COVID-19 vaccinations. However, all employees are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the UMB vaccination center if you have not already received a vaccine.